

"The Rock Art of Easter Island: Symbols of Power, Prayers to the Gods" and "Rapa Nui, Island of Memory".

Hyder's photos are exceptional in many ways. They show the island as it was in 1982, symbolically commemorating the 25th anniversary since the original events by establishing the gallery in 2007. All pictures are of superb quality; different image sizes allow both fast preview and very detailed high-resolution versions.

The gallery presents a rich variety of unique rock art photos, taken under extremely favorable illumination, causing the designs to stand out clearly in all their beauty. Here you will find masterly carved Makemake faces from Ana Nga Heu; about a dozen photos from 'Orongo showing stylistic variations of bass-relief birdmen carvings at the sacred precinct Mata Ngarau, including one-of-a-kind photos of a stone with two birdmen that is located inside one of the houses and still showing white pigment traces, and the famous carved doorpost with numerous *komari* motifs and cupules. Four photos are dedicated to another currently sealed site – a stone panel with multiple *komari* incisions located in a cave near Hanga Tee. Several wonderful images show Ana Kai Tangata's paintings and the outside of the cave, illuminated by rays of the setting sun.

The gallery also includes an exceptional set of almost twenty breathtaking aerials taken from a small plane, showing the fantastic volcanic landscapes of Rapa Nui with solitary clusters of trees emerging from the sea of sun-burnt grass, orange-red patches of eroded soil, and omnipresent scattered black rocks. You will find here an amazing photo of Poike ditch, revealing its discontinuous character, several pictures of Rano Raraku's volcano from different angles and zoom shots of the external quarries and *moai* standing below. There are some wonderful birds-eye views of Ahu Vaihu, Ahu Akahanga, Papa te Kena and Cape Puku Auke. One stunning aerial shot of Ahu Nau Nau at 'Anakena is exceptional: one can see the site after the recent excavations, with its seawall free from sand to its full height and several open excavation trenches.

The newly opened online photographic gallery of William D. Hyder presents the unique set of historical images from Easter Island, incredible aerials and wonderful petroglyph images – a pure delight for every Rapanuiphile!

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MOAI SIGHTINGS

A *MOAI* CONSTRUCTED OF CANS of peas was displayed at the Charleston (N. Carolina) Civic Center in a competition to create a sculpture from canned goods. Teams of architects, engineers, and contractors competed to design and build a sculpture out of canned foods. The charity event is organized by the Society of Design Administration. The Easter Island-inspired entry was a six-foot structure with a seven-foot *moai* on top, formed completely from cans of peas. Some cans of chili were added "for color." After the competition, the canned goods were donated to charity.



It seems that one can order individualized postage stamps in Britain, stamps exhibiting pictures of newlyweds, one's dog or child or, in this case, *moai*, which was sent to us by David Maddock. These special stamps are called "smilers", and are legal tender.



A photograph sent in by Elaine Baker shows an unlikely picture of three snowmen *moai* seen at the McCall (Idaho) Winter Carnival in January 2007.



A small *moai* with *pukao* and Maria Eugenia Santa Coloma in the Montserrat Museum, Spain. It was donated by a private collector but no other information was available. Photo by Patrick Chapman

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PACIFIC

THE CUNARD LINE, PIONEERS OF WORLD CRUISING, will make maritime history in January 2008 when its newest ocean liner, *Queen Victoria*, sails from New York at the same time as Cunard's *Queen Elizabeth 2*. The two departures will mark the start of *Queen Victoria*'s "Pathway to the

Explorers" cruise and the *QE2*'s start of a 90-day "Pacific and Far East Odyssey." Both ships will sail to Fort Lauderdale for celebrations and then each will head off on different itineraries, reuniting in Sydney at the end of February.

The *QE2* will sail around South America, stopping at Valparaíso and then off across the Pacific, with a stop at Easter Island. Note that the ship carries 1,900 passengers plus 1,015 crew. The impact of such a number of people at one time on the island's fragile eco-system staggers the imagination.

LAPITA DESIGNS

THE RIDDLE OF THE MYSTERIOUS faces on South Pacific artifacts may be solved by research conducted by John Terrell, Curator of Pacific Anthropology at The Field Museum, and Esther M. Schechter, a Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology at The Field Museum. "Lapita" pottery has been found at more than 180 different places on tropical islands located in a broad arc of the southwestern Pacific from Papua New Guinea to Samoa. Experts have long viewed the faces on pottery as human in appearance, and considered them to be a sign that Pacific Islanders long ago may have worshiped their ancestors. But Terrell and Schechter have identified the symbolism on prehistoric pottery excavated at Aitape on the Sepik Coast of northern New Guinea as representing sea turtles. Furthermore, these portraits may be showing us ideas held by early Pacific Islanders about the origins of humankind.

Terrell and Schechter's discovery suggests that a folktale recorded on this coast in the early 1970s – a story about a great sea turtle (the mother of all sea turtles) and the origins of the first island, the first man, and the first woman on earth – may be thousands of years old. "Nothing we had been doing in New Guinea for years had prepared us for this discovery," Terrell explained. "We have now been able to describe for the first time four kinds of prehistoric pottery from the Sepik coast that, when considered in series, fill the temporal gap between practices and beliefs in Lapita times and the present day. A plausible reason for the persistence of this iconography is that it has referenced ideas about the living and the dead, the human and the divine, and the individual and society that remained socially and spiritually profound and worthy of expression long after the demise of Lapita as a distinct ceramic style," Terrell added.

Terrell and Schechter acknowledge that more work must be done to pin down their unexpected discovery. Nevertheless, it now looks as if they have deciphered the ancient "Lapita code" and may have rescued one of the oldest religious beliefs of Pacific Islanders from the brink of oblivion. "I was skeptical ... about connecting these designs with sea turtles," Schechter said, "but then a conservation biologist pointed out that some of the designs match the distinctive beach tracks that a green sea turtle makes when she is coming ashore to lay her eggs. Everything made even more sense when we came across the creation story about a great sea turtle and the first man and woman on earth," she added. The story comes from a village only 75 miles away

from where the Field Museum is working, on the same coast of Papua New Guinea.

Cambridge Archaeological Journal, Vol. 17(1):59-85.

WHAT'S NEW IN FIJI

FIJI'S TOURIST INDUSTRY IS IN SHOCK over a porno flick filmed at the country's most prestigious resorts. A copy of the film (*The Fijian Sex Story*) was sent anonymously to the *Fiji Times* and the Fiji Police Force has demanded to see it. The cast includes both local and foreign actors. The Australian company that produced it stated that the Prime Minister's Office, Fiji Police Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry for Women, Ministry of Tourism, Fiji Audio Visual Commission and the Fiji Visitors Bureau, along with the hotels, all supported the production. However, the president of the Fiji Islands Hotel and Tourism Association said the production made a mockery of the country and that the association did not condone such acts. The Methodist Church's Department of Christian Citizenship called the porno movie "another side effect of tourism" and stated that visitors have no respect for the morals of the Fijians. Police say they will begin inquiries as soon as they get to see the movie.

Fiji Times: <http://www.fijitimes.com> October 17

WHAT'S NEW IN TONGA

A NEW VOLCANIC ISLAND has appeared in the Pacific Ocean near Tonga, according to ocean-going eyewitnesses. The crew on board the yacht *Maiken* believe they are the first to see a volcanic island forming off Neiafu [Tonga]. As they sailed toward Fiji in August, a crewmember wrote on the yacht's web log: "One mile in diameter and with four peaks and a central crater smoking with steam and once in a while an outburst high in the sky with lava and ashes. I think we're the first ones out here." They had earlier noted pumice floating on the water. Neither Tonga's Ministry of Lands nor the Tonga Defense Service would confirm this new island. Separately, a fishing boat captain, Siaosi Fenukitau, reported seeing the volcanic island arising according to the Matangi Tonga website.

Matangi Tonga News November 9

WHAT'S NEW IN AOTEAROA

THE DRAMATIC STORY OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST HUMAN MIGRATION is told in a major exhibition, on view from 8 December 2006 to 8 April 2007 at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Incorporating the most recent scientific research in fields as diverse as genetics, linguistics and computer modeling, the landmark Vaka Moana exhibition tells the extraordinary story of the exploration and peopling of the vast Pacific Ocean. In developing this world-class exhibition, Auckland Museum has drawn on its unsurpassed Maori and Pacific collections, as well as the expertise of in-house curators and academic specialists from New Zealand and the Pacific Rim. Some 200 objects from Auckland Museum's collection and other New Zealand and international

collections, including rare carvings and a full-size inter-island voyaging canoe, are on display, supported by specially commissioned multi-media installations, interactive displays and a lavish, authoritative tie-in book.

After its Auckland debut, Vaka Moana will go on tour internationally, to the National Museum of Ethnology (Osaka, Japan), the National Museum of Natural Science (Taichung, Taiwan), the National Museum of Australia (Canberra), and the Tropenmuseum (Amsterdam). The exhibition is also slated to travel to France, the United States and Canada, before returning to New Zealand in 2011. Vaka Moana follows on from the internationally acclaimed Te Maori exhibition of 1984 which signaled the renaissance of Maori culture in New Zealand. It is the most significant touring exhibition to be developed and curated by the Auckland Museum.

THE TE TAI TOKERAU TARAI WAKA is planning a voyage on *Te Aurere* from Aotearoa to Rapanui in August 2007. *Te Aurere* is the famous double-hulled *waka* (*waka hourua*) of New Zealand that has sailed around East Polynesia. The name of the trip will be *Te hono tuatahi ki Rapa Nui* (in the Maori of Aotearoa): "The first link to Rapa Nui"

www.teaurere.co.nz

WHAT'S NEW IN TAHITI

THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED CASES of dengue fever in French Polynesia totaled 376 by last November. The epidemic is found in all age groups, but 38% of cases are among young people between the ages of 10 and 19. The dengue virus present in French Polynesia at the moment is serotype 1, which produced a serious epidemic in 2001. The French Polynesia Public Health Ministry said that part of today's population is immune to serotype 1, which should prevent the current epidemic from reaching the same proportions that it did in 2001. Although there are four possible dengue serotypes, there is no cross-immunity between them and no way of predicting which virus will hit from one year to the next. There is no vaccine to protect from the disease. Dengue viruses were reintroduced in the early 1970s after an absence of more than 25 years. Epidemic activity caused by all four serotypes has intensified in recent years with major epidemics on several islands. Dengue is transmitted to humans by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito; it takes between seven and 14 days after a mosquito bite for symptoms to appear. The first symptoms include a high fever, headache, backache, joint pains, nausea, eye pain, and rash. Occasionally dengue produces shock, hemorrhage, and death.

Tahitipresse, November 2

WHAT'S NEW ON PITCAIRN

A DESCENDANT OF FLETCHER CHRISTIAN and two other men have had their sentences upheld for sexual assaults on Pitcairn's young girls. Steve Christian, the great-great-great-great-great-grandson of *Bounty* mutineer Fletcher Christian, began a prison sentence that rates as one of the

strangest and most disturbing in the world. With his son Randy and a third man, Terry Young, Christian began a three-year term for sexually assaulting young girls on Pitcairn. Together with three other islanders who were also found guilty but escaped prison sentences, the convicts represent almost half the adult male population of the island. Teams of warders from New Zealand, will guard the prisoners over the next few years and British Ministry of Defense police are there to ensure law and order is maintained. As Pitcairn's population is only 47, their presence makes it the most heavily policed place on Earth.

Christian was originally accused with six other men of taking part in systematic sexual assaults on girls as young as eight. The case emerged after a teenage girl told a visiting British policeman she had been raped. The investigation revealed that 32 women who had grown up on Pitcairn claimed to have been sexually abused and 31 men, some now deceased, were accused. Seven of the women named Steve Christian, the island's mayor, as their attacker. Eventually he was among those who were tried on Pitcairn. The trial revealed a disturbing picture of systematic sexual abuse. According to one victim, Jacqui Christian, life on the island was pleasant for children: "We could go nice places we wanted to after school, riding our bikes or flying kites." But by the time girls reached 11 or 12, things changed. "Being a girl, we always tried to avoid being anywhere with an adult man...The older you got, the smarter about where you were and who you were with, who was safe to be around and who wasn't. No one spoke out until the police came."

Jacqui, now living in Australia, gave evidence against several Pitcairn men by video link. What happened affected her whole life: "I'm 35 and I still have not been game enough to have children of my own yet." However, a different version was given by other islanders, including Steve Christian, who claimed it was consensual under-age sex. The case, not surprisingly, shattered the community. Some women came forward to report rape while others maintained that under-age sex was part of the culture of Pitcairn. Teenage sex was said to be a consequence of the island's "impassioned ancestry." Merelda Warren, whose brother was acquitted, acknowledged that most women of her generation were having sex at the ages of 12 or 13: "We're Polynesians. In Polynesia we grow up very quickly."

Six of the seven accused were found guilty: Steve Christian, aged 55, got 3 years, his son Randy, 32, received six, and Terry Young, five years. Seventy-nine year-old Len Brown received home detention. All appealed but the verdicts stood and the men began their prison terms. This will not be much of a privation. The men built their own prison, transported in kit form from Britain and specially constructed to house them. It is the most luxurious building on the island and even has indoor plumbing, a Pitcairn extravagance.

Robin McKie, The Observer November 19

WHAT'S NEW IN HAWAI'I

HŌKULE'A, THE HAWAIIAN VOYAGING CANOE, is on a historic voyage. It has reached Satawal where a 57-foot double-hulled voyaging canoe, *Alingano Maisu*, was presented to navigator Mau Piailug. The crews' main goal was to deliver the canoe to Piailug, who taught Pacific way-finding to a generation of native Hawaiians and inspired a renaissance in canoe voyaging in Hawai'i. In a ceremony, 16 people were honored as Pwo, master navigators in the sacred brotherhood of Micronesian wayfarers. The *Hōkele'a* will sail on to the islands of Japan.

The Hawai'i sailing voyagers are scheduled to make eight stops at islands or atolls through Micronesia: Pohnpei, Chuuk, Pulap, Satawal, Woleai, Ulithi, Yap and Palau, in that order, and through three island nations – the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau – once held as strategic trust territories of the United States under a United Nations mandate after World War II. For the Hawaiian voyaging canoes, the Micronesian islands are part of the reason for the journey, to pay homage to a sister civilization that helped Hawaiians rediscover their ocean navigation tradition.

J. Bruggencate, Honolulu Advertiser

WHAT'S NEW IN LONDON

THE BRITISH MUSEUM HAS HAD an exhibit that is certainly of interest to readers of *RNJ*. Called "Power and Taboo, Sacred Objects from the Pacific" it concentrates on the Polynesian Triangle, covering the period 1760 to 1860. Displayed are artifacts related to *tapu* that were collected by Europeans during that time, and used to control the power of the gods. An impressive catalogue, *Pacific Encounters, Art and Divinity in Polynesia 1760-186* by Steven Hooper (288 pages), accompanies the exposition. It contains 72 pages of written text plus 268 photographs, practically all in color. It is splendidly made, with accompanying descriptions and illustrates more objects than are on display.

Some items drew my attention. Of course I first looked at the section dedicated to Rapa Nui and I was a bit disappointed that there was only one small case containing four woodcarvings of birdmen, objects that most of us have seen before. The catalogue, however, illustrates ten objects. (The *moai* that has been on display in the museum for decades was not moved from its site elsewhere in the building).

What struck me was the plank canoe acquired from Nukutavake Island (Tuamotus) by Captain Samuel Wallis during the voyage of H.M.S. *Dolphin* in 1767; it was donated to the museum in 1771. This is not a model, but a real canoe (without the outriggers), with a length of 3.87 meters. The hull is composed of 45 narrow wooden planks sown together with plaited coir cordage covering battens of split coconut leaf midrib. A carved human figure on the stern is partially broken; only its legs, carved on either side, still remain. But for the rest, this paddling canoe is still in astonishingly good condition.

Of interest was that this canoe, although not from

Rapa Nui, exactly fits the description by Captain Bouman of the *Thienhoven* (the second ship in the fleet of Jacob Roggeveen) who wrote in his journal on 7 April 1722, while they were circling Easter Island in search of a safe anchorage. This was the first known European encounter with Rapa Nui. The Dutch took the islander on board, dressed him in a pair of old pants, showed him their ship, gave him Dutch gin to drink, and watched as he danced to the music of a violin.

When he left the ship in a rising sea, Captain Bouman was worried, for he noted that the islander spent half his time bailing the canoe and therefore had only half his time left for rowing. Bouman described the canoe as follows: "His canoe had been made of small planks that were held together by some sort of rope; it had two blocks of wood on the inside. It was so light that one man alone could easily carry it. For us it was surprising that one man alone had the courage to venture out so far in the ocean with nothing else at his disposal but one paddle, because when he approached us, we were about three miles from the coast....The wind was variable with rain, which compelled us to turn away from the coast. Therefore we had to take leave of our company to which he felt very little inclined. So in order to get rid of him, we had him brought to his canoe, but he remained with our ships until he noticed that we were sailing away from the coast, only then did he return to the shore. The sea was already hollow so that I was afraid whether he would return all right"¹.

The extreme ingenuity of the construction of such a canoe is clearly shown in the photograph of a detail. The people of Rapa Nui also mastered this technique. This canoe of sown planks is certainly the only one still in existence and due to its size, it has practically never been on display in the British Museum.

Also new to me were certain primitive drawings of British sailors exchanging objects with Tahitians during Cook's second voyage; these have only very recently (1998) been identified as having been made by Tupaia, the great navigator from Ra'iatea taken on board by Captain Cook in Tahiti in order to present him to the court in London. Unfortunately Tupaia died from malaria on the way. Two of his drawings are on show at the exposition. All in all, this exposition is certainly worth a visit.

Herbert von Saher, November 2006

¹ Those who wish to read the complete report of this remarkable encounter can find it in RNJ Volume 8 (4) 1994 in which the text of Captain Cornelis Bouman's journal during the days around Easter Island was translated into English for the first time, by von Saher.

WHAT'S NEW IN HANGAROA

A WIND-DRIVEN FIRE burned over 163 hectares in a two-day fire that began in the Vai Atare section of the island, on the east side of Rano Kau, probably started from a discarded

cigarette. Driven by strong winds, it swept through a eucalyptus grove and across grassland before being contained by local firefighters.

MOAI DAMAGE. There is growing indignation on Easter Island regarding "probable damage" to a *moai* that was struck by a tourist at Rano Raraku. The case is particularly serious because the person charged is Enrique Schmidt Meier, age 76, the father of the current Ministra de Bienes Nacionales, Ms. Romy Schmidt. He was detained on the island after a tour guide observed him strike a *moai* with a stone. Rumor has it that the damage was evaluated at two to three million pesos (US\$3,809 to US\$5,714). Mr Schmidt claims that he never meant to strike the *moai*; he was only showing his friends how the natives carved them, and he is very sorry. Authorities stated that no one is above the law.

La Tercera, 16 November 2006

TRADE BEAD FOUND ON RAPA NUI! Last year's Earthwatch field season, under the direction of Chris Stevenson and Sonia Haoa, discovered a rare glass trade bead at Hanga Hahave (Site 5-111, Test Unit 1, Level 1). The test unit was placed on a rake-out mound of an *umu pae* which in turn was associated with a *poro* house pavement and a basalt activity platform. All were located near the coastal road where the stone quarry is currently operating. The artifact was made from "drawn molten glass" that was passed through a six-sided shape to give it a hexagonal cross-section. It is about 0.5 cm in length and about 0.5 cm in diameter. Similar beads in a variety of colors first appeared in North America in the 19th century and they were most likely made in Bohemia.

The earliest word we have about trade beads comes from the Dutch who reached the island in 1722:

"While their ships were still keeping well off the island, the Dutchmen were visited by the first Easter Islander, a nude and friendly native, whom they brought on board.... He was later started off again towards the shore, presented with two strings of blue beads around his neck and some other trifles." (Heyerdahl and Ferdon 1961:45 citing Behrens 1732:132-133).

Carlyle Smith found beads at the Maunga Auhepa house site: "Five glass beads were found. Four of the beads are faceted blue opaque glass in the form of octagonal tubes, 5 mm in diameter and from 5 to 6 mm in length. The shortest bead is light blue; the other three are dark blue. All four beads came from near the surface in the house and stone enclosure. The fifth bead is quite different from the first four. It is elliptical in longitudinal section, and is composed of light blue, milky glass. It measures 8 mm. in diameter and 1.1 cm. in length. This specimen was found at a depth of between 60 and 70 cm. near the bottom of the refuse deposit at the northern end of the excavation." And, "The beads were submitted to Kenneth M. Kidd of the Royal Ontario Museum for identification. Kidd recognizes the faceted beads as similar to those found in archaeological sites in the Plains Area of North America dating from the

middle of the 19th century. The beads were found in a house and a stone enclosure, near the bottom of a refuse deposit. None of the beads is definitely attributable to a specific manufacturing center in Europe.

The earlier cited fact that blue beads formed part of the first trade goods received from Roggeveen suggests the intriguing possibility that the elliptical bead from deep in the refuse might date from this time or one of the other 18th century visits. The other beads and miscellaneous trade goods appear to date from within the 19th century." (Carlyle S. Smith, 1961. The Maunga Auhepa House Site. Report 6. *Archaeology of Easter Island, Reports of the Norwegian Archaeological Expedition to Easter Island and the East Pacific*, Volume I. T. Heyerdahl and E. N. Jr. Ferdon, eds. 24(1):282-283. Monographs of the School of American Research and the Museum of New Mexico).

A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE will be seen on Easter Island on July 11th, 2010. This event likely will be a popular one; we hear reservations are already being taken by some hotels.

WHAT'S NEW AT MAPSE. IN OCTOBER 2006, the Museo Antropológico P. Sebastián Englert celebrated its 33rd anniversary. Events included a children's painting competition called "*Sonando Rapa Nui*" (Dreaming Rapa Nui). Another event was held in remembrance of Father Sebastián Englert and honored the employees of the Museo and a new program for museum volunteers that began officially in 2006. There was also a ceremony to honor families of Rapa Nui who participated in the carving of a sculpture that adorns the principal access to the museum, the "Placa Recordatoria". Director Francisco Torres described the sculpture carved by Petero Huki Atan in 1988 to remember the 100 years of incorporation of Rapa Nui with Chile. It represents the union of both cultures. Others who collaborated on this work included members of the Huki Atan, Tuki Tepihe and Hito families.

In late November, artist Te Pou Huke launched his first comic book, "*Vaero Roa*" and in January a book signing was held at the Museo. The Museo often opens in the evening for such events so that people who work during the day will be able to attend with their families and view both the museum collection and the Biblioteca William Mulloy. Other events in 2006 included photographic exhibits of Chileans Nicolas Aguayo called "*Rapa Nui, Mana y Misterio*" and Francisco Bermejo Justiniano entitled "*La Tirana*"; a launching of a facsimile of the first edition of Father Sebastian's "*La Tierra de Hotu Matu'a*" and a presentation about Antarctica by Cristian Rodrigo, an oceanographer from the Instituto Antarctica Chileno.

In May 2006, in honor of the "month of the ocean", the Museo held an event to launch the documentary "*Te Mau Vaikava o Rapa Nui/El Mundo Submarino de Isla de Pascua*" (The Submarine World of Easter Island), produced by commercial diver, Michel Garcia. The film shows the diverse species of local marine fauna. 3

NEWS FROM THE DEEP

A NEW SPECIES OF HAGFISH has been found just south of Easter Island at a depth of more than 7,200 feet. Last March, scientists from the Monterey Bay Aquarium captured the snake-like hagfish. An article by Jones and Moller of the Zoological Museum of the University of Co-



A recent view of the island's new high school, north of the village. Photo by Elaine and Don Dvorak, 2007.



'Anakena has snappy new bathrooms, located at the parking area. It costs to use them but, in exchange, they are kept clean and tidy. Photo by Elaine and Don Dvorak, 2007.



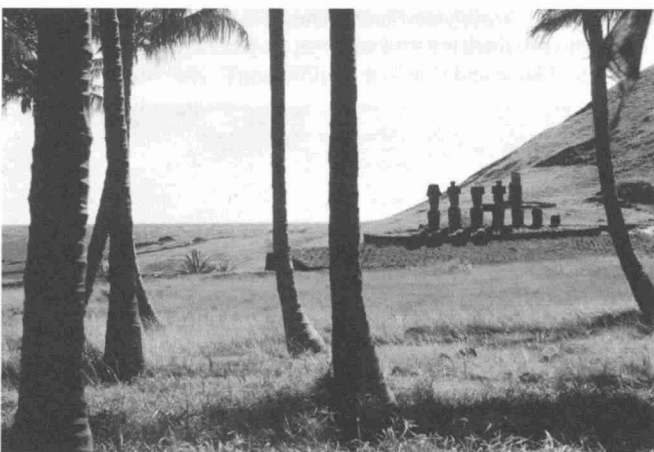
Kite aerial view of 'Anakena looking inland and showing the incursion of beach sand. Ahu Nau Nau can be seen in the top left. Photo by Elaine and Don Dvorak, 2007.



The sea wall at Ahu Nau Nau is nearly covered with sand, hiding the wall and many petroglyphs. Elaine and Don Dvorak, 2007.



Front view of Ahu Nau Nau. Sand covers the ramp leading up to the ahu. Photo by Elaine and Don Dvorak, 2007.



View of 'Anakena and Ahu Nau Nau in 1986. Then, sand was only in the immediate areas of the beach. Now sand covers grass, petroglyphs, reaches to the base of the ahu platform, and encroaches on the grassy areas and palm trees. Photo: Georgia Lee.

penhagen, published in the science journal *Biological Bulletin*, called the new species *Eptatretus strickrotti*, honoring the captain of the ALVIN submersible who collected it. Hagfish resemble eels only with a ring of tentacles around their mouths and large slime glands along their bodies that emit a thick slime that sticks to everything. They live on muddy sea floors in groups and, as scavengers, they burrow into dead or dying animals and eat them from the inside (we are not making this up). In Korea, nearly 5 million pounds of hagfish are eaten annually.

A. Gouveia, *Cape Cod Times*, 17 February 2007

CHILE

CHILE'S PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY (MOP) announced projects aimed at attracting more tourists to Easter Island as well as to Robinson Crusoe Island, two of Chile's most popular tourist destinations. US\$2.4 million will be spent on road improvements so that tourists can travel from Hanga-roa village to the various island sites. Once completed, the island's roads will have a 46 kilometer tourist circuit.

La Tercera, 12 November 2006.

OBITUARY

EASTER ISLAND HAS LOST A FRIEND. Francesco di Castri, 74, ecologist, former deputy director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and former president of the World Science Institute, died July 6, 2005. He was the founding director of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program and was considered one of UNESCO's principal contributors in promoting international cooperation on environmental issues. He was the director of the French CNRS Centre for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology, worked as a university professor in Chile, and was an expert on Easter Island. Dr. di Castri authored more than 20 books and 350 articles, his work addressing such matters as soil biology, the convergence of Mediterranean ecosystems and the structure of animal communities from the tropics to Antarctica. He contributed several articles for *Rapa Nui Journal*, including "The Dynamic Future of Rapa Nui" (*RNJ* 17(1), May 2003:44-48; and "A Moai in Michelangelo Marble" (*RNJ* 19(1), May 2005:51-52).

Over the years we were privileged to carry on a lively conversation with Francesco, via email. His letters expressed his love for Easter Island, but also dismay over its seemingly unsolvable problems. In early 2003, he wrote that he had just spent two weeks on the island, reviewing economic and social developments and talking with local authorities and entrepreneurs, operators of tourism, and those with very diverse aspirations. He visited sites for new hotels, new plantations of fruit and flowers, reviewed coastal erosion projects, and gave advice on the enormous erosion at Poike, as well as problems of livestock. He wrote that, "I now understand much better the diverse psychologies and aspirations of islanders. The most impressive change is the land distribution (from Vaihu up to the northern coast) of some 1,900 hectares, which will be followed